

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 – 5:00 pm

Remote Meeting by Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Present: Melanie Ames Zamojski, Michael Nelson

Staff: Health Director, Daniel Wasiuk

Guests: Julian Mendoza – Greenfield Recorder, Wendy Bogusz & Robin Neipp, RN, Jeff Singleton – Montague Reporter, and Ariel Elan

Michael Nelson opened the meeting at 5:02PM.

Minutes: Montague Board of Health November 2021

- After a brief discussion of the minutes from November 2021 Board of Health meeting and the vote was taken.

*Melaine Ames Zamojski **Motioned** to accept the November 17, 2021, minutes. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.** Zamojski – aye, Nelson - aye*

Minutes: Montague Board of Health December 2021

- After a brief discussion of the minutes from December 2021 Board of Health meeting and the vote was taken.

*Melanie Ames Zamojski **Motioned** to accept the December 2, 2021, minutes. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.** Zamojski – aye, Nelson - aye*

Zamojski – aye, Nelson - aye

Recent Director's Report:

- Daniel shared with the BOH members his monthly report.
 - Had to do a condemnation on L Street due to unsanitary conditions. The tenant did significant cleaning and improvements to the fact of many dumpster loads. Daniel Wasiuk commended the occupant and the landlord in their swift action and momentous efforts.
 - East Main Street under review and monitoring at this point.
 - Bridge Street needs structural repairs that have not been addressed. BOH re-inspection fees continue.
 - Green Pond Road non-compliance and re-inspection fees continue.
 - The business and food services are slowly moving to opening
 - Perc tests have been happening especially with new construction

*Melanie Ames Zamojski **Motioned** to accept the Director's Report. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.** Zamojski – aye, Nelson - aye*

Recent Nurse's Report:

- Melanie would like to see the Nurse's report to only contain current workload and what is currently being worked on and update on website.
- Robin Neipp RN will be taking over all items COVID-19 focusing on contact tracing through a contract collaborative grant.
- Melanie assisted Daniel in putting a proposal forward for an increase in Public Health Nurse Cheryl Volpe, RN
- Received many calls from Town employees and business to Cheryl regarding quarantine and isolation questions.

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*Melanie Ames Zamojski **Motioned** to accept the Nurses' Report. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.** Zamojski – aye, Nelson - aye*

Welcome Robin Neipp RN as Contact Tracing Nurse for the collaborative grant:

- Robin Neipp introduced herself and gave a brief history of her background. Robin is happy to be part of the team assisting Montague, MA with all things COVID-19 related. Robin will be working 19 hours as part of a grant for Montague, MA only.

Discussion of 185 L Street Brendan Kenny & Lusía Barreat de Kenny:

- Unable to attend and will be at the next BOH meeting.
- The tenant and their lease and rights will also be determined going forward.
- There are some structural issues that also will need to be addressed by the landlord.
- Michael and BOH members supported the addition of 30 more days to meet the order to correct violations that are currently outstanding.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to extend the Order to Correct for 185 L Street for an additional 30 days. Seconded by Melanie Ames Zamojski. **Motion passes.** Nelson – aye, Zamojski – aye*

Discussion: DPH & Senator Comerford:

- Tabled till the next BOH meeting as requested by BOH members

Discussion: Update of BOH Budget:

- The BOH members asked the Director to review the nurse hours and position. The request was brought to the finance committee during budget discussions. Melanie was in support of requesting a 30-hour nurse position with benefits and increase hourly rate to \$58.00. Conversations expanded to a request of 17 hours and a pay rate of \$56 or so hours would be more likely. A possible use of AARP funds for the nurse position is a possible according to Melanie and a conversation she had with Steve Ellis. Melanie added that the SAFE 2.0 bill has come out of committee positively especially with the Health Department and Melanie will be meeting with Senator Jo Commerford.
- A request was presented given that the Health Clerk's duties have expanded greatly over the last few years and that the current Health Clerk is at the top of range the direction was given to make a request to go up a step to give some longevity and increase in pay has been proposed for a total yearly increase of just over \$2,000.00.
- An inspectional vehicle was requested given the need and circumstances of the job duties in the Health Department. This didn't get into where liability, holding insurance or responsibilities would lie if there were bodily or vehicle damage to the personal vehicle being used for business duties. This has also come up with other departments who do inspectional services on a regular basis.
- Jeff Singleton reiterated the issues that were brought up at the Selectboard as it pertains to the above financial requests.

Discussion: COVID-19 Responsibilities & Duties for the Board of Health:

- Discussed being on the agenda for the Selectboard as a place holder and if there is something new to discuss BOH will be available and the need to be asked to be put on the agenda.
- The Board of Health brought up the COVID-19 tests that were given by the state at DPH directly to the BOH along with specifics directives of how to distribute them. However, when other entities get involve with the processes and dictate it throws a wrench in how to meet these challenges. The BOH and members should be in charge of how things proceed.
- The BOH is a separate entity and should be proactive and remain that way but be collaborative with Selectboard and its members when needed.

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Meeting adjourned: 6:06 PM

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to adjourn the monthly Board of Health meeting. Seconded by Melanie Ames Zamojski. **Motion passes.** Nelson – aye, Zamojski – aye*

Approved by: _____

Date: _____